

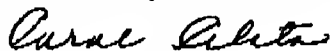
FEB 24 2004

OFFICIAL**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

| Application No. | Filing Date | First Named Inventor | Attorney Docket No. |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| 09/996,184 | 11/28/2001 | Avila | 5181 |
| Conf. No. | Art Unit | Examiner | Customer No. |
| 3918 | 1615 | L. Di Nola Baron | 24536 |
| Title | Polyalkylene Glycol Viscosity-Enhancing Polymeric Formulations | | |
| Date Mailed | 2/24/04 | Paper Number | |

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence (7 pages) is being transmitted by facsimile to 703-872-9306, TC 1600 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 24, 2004.



Name: Carol Celata

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY WITH AMENDMENT
AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on October 3, 2003, Applicant respectfully submits this Reply with amendment and remarks. Applicant also requests concurrently a two-month extension of time to extend the period for timely submission of this Reply to March 3, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests that this application be reconsidered in light of the amendments and remarks set out as follows:

Listing of claims page 2
Remarks page 5
Petition for extension of time..... page 6
Authorization for payment of fees with duplicate page 6

Blundell/5181-reply 2-04.doc